FREE – TAKE ONE

The Romulus News

MARCH 23, 2007 – APRIL 5, 2007 "the little paper" VOLUME 20 NUMBER 17

Timely Tidbits ...

Breakfast Benefits Boys & Girls Club

A pancake breakfast to benefit the Romulus Boys & Girls Club equipment purchase fund will be held from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 7, at Community United Methodist Church (corner of Olive and Bibbins). It's the perfect way to start your morning – especially if you're planning on attending the City's annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held just down the street immediately afterward (see below).

Easter Egg Hunt

The Romulus Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held – rain or shine – in the park behind the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) on Saturday, April 7.

Egg hunts will be divided into four age groups: three and under, four to five years, six to seven years, and eight to ten years. Some eggs will contain special prizes. All participants must bring their own baskets or bags to store the eggs they collect.

The event will begin promptly at noon. Please allow enough time for parking, which will be permitted in the Senior Center parking lot and along Olive Street. Upon arrival, report directly to the patio area behind the Senior Center.

This event is FREE to Romulus residents and their families. No preregistration is required. For information, call 734-941-8665.

Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Romulus Public Library will host their semi-annual Used Book Sale from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, April 23, through Wednesday, April 25, and from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 (Bag Day).

Adult hardcovers will be priced at just $1.50; large paperbacks, $1; paperbacks, $.50; children's paperbacks, $.25; and CDs, DVDs, videos, and albums, $1. Bag Day shoppers will be able to fill a grocery bag for just $2.25. For more information, call 734-942-7589. ❑

"Environmental Impact" Meeting Marks Next Step in Bringing Casino Gaming to Romulus

City officials are hoping that a meeting held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on March 8 will prove to be another small step toward their goal of bringing casino gaming to Romulus.

Mayor Alan R. Lambert and his administration have been working to bring a casino development to Romulus since December 2003, when residents voted to allow both casinos and horse racing within the city limits.

Currently, the Hannahville Tribe of the Potawatomi Indians is considering the development of a casino/hotel complex on a parcel of land located at the northwest corner of Wick and Vining roads. The Tribe's preliminary proposal calls for a casino with 2,400 slot machines and 90 gaming tables, as well as a four-story, 200-room hotel resort. Also planned are extensive food and beverage facilities, an entertainment venue, retail shops, meeting space, child-care facilities, and other non-gaming resort amenities such as an indoor swimming pool and fitness center.

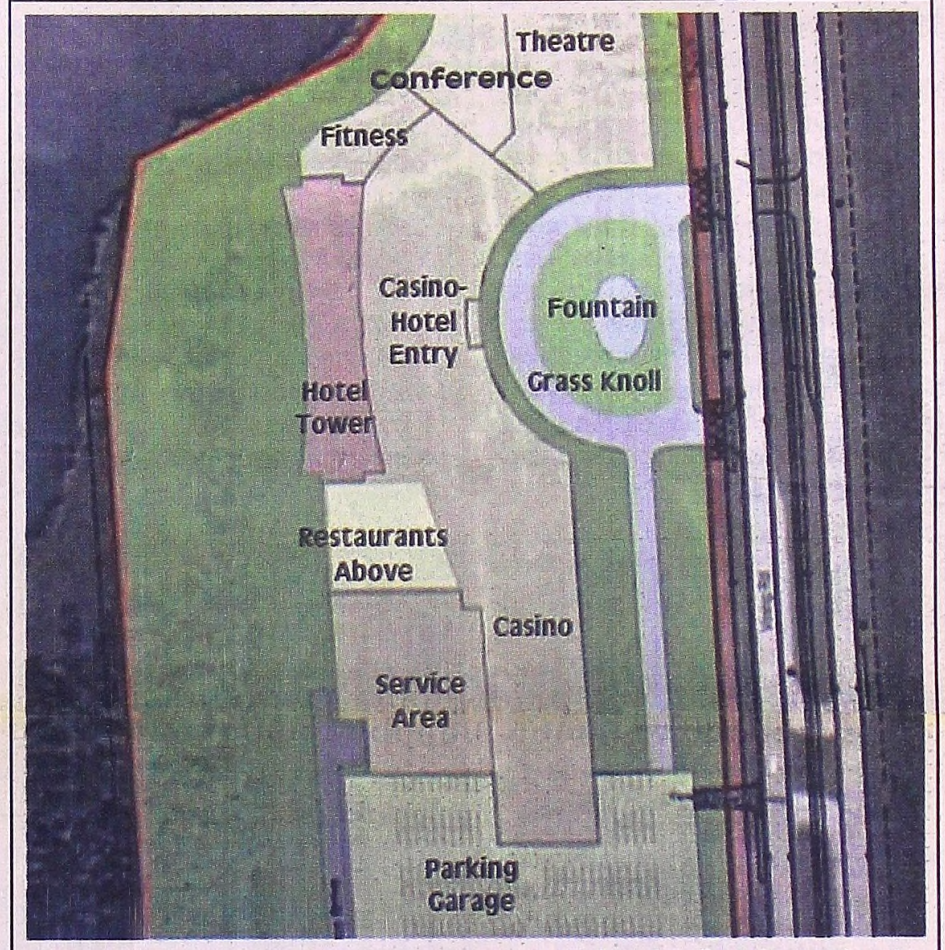
In order to get the project approved, the Tribe must jump through a series of legal hoops, including the procurement of a favorable Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) asserting that the proposed project would be in the Tribe's best interest, and not detrimental to the surrounding community. To that end, the Bureau of Indian Affairs hosted the March 8 "scoping" meeting to seek public comment on the project.

Of those who spoke at the meeting, only Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Chief Fred Cantu, Jr., expressed opposition to the project, asserting that it would be an encroachment on his Tribe's ancestral lands, which include all of Romulus.

Among those who voiced support for the project were Mayor Lambert; City planner Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP; and Councilman William Crova – all of whom believe it will be a shot in the arm for the local economy.

Resident Joe Kochanoski summed up his brief remarks by saying, "Go forward as fast as you can," while Chamber of Commerce member Oscar Rhoton noted, "We need jobs here."

Once the EIS is complete – a process that will take some months, and include at least one more public meeting – residents will be able to view the final document at www.romuluseis.com.



This preliminary site plan shows the proposed casino/hotel complex, to be located on the northwest corner of Wick and Vining roads. (Vining is the road pictured at right; Wick is below the parking area.)

RHS Eagles Win District Championship

Congratulations to the Romulus High School boys' varsity basketball team, which captured the district championship with a 68–53 win over the Ann Arbor Huron River Rats on March 10. (The Eagles were later defeated in the MHSAA regionals, losing to Detroit Redford by a score of 58–52.) Coach Nate Oats' players include: (from left) front – Filmore Bouldes, Rashard Porter, Valdez Green, Rodrick Walker, and Mario Crawford; middle – Martell Anderson, Laron Rodgers, Deandray Buckley, and Devin Pankey; back – Dwayne Edwards, Antoine James, William Clyburn, and Dominique Buckley. (Not pictured: Devin Searcy.)

Letter to the Editor

Coach Gives Wrestling Program Update

To the Editor:

On February 11, 2007, the Romulus Wrestling Club competed in the State AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) folkstyle wrestling championships. The young people we took to the competition did very well. It's a great feeling to see the kids use the holds and strategies that they have been taught.

The top finishers were:

- Justin Barnes (80 lbs.) – first place, 8-/9-year-old Midget Division;
- John Cox (70 lbs.) – second place, 8-/9-year-old Midget Division;
- John Johnson (65 lbs.) – fourth place, 8-/9-year-old Midget Division; and
- Derrick Johnson (160 lbs.) – second place, 14-/15-year-old Cadet Division.

The season has now switched over to freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling – both Olympic styles. The kids have already placed high in these tournaments, as well.

The season will conclude in May, when the USA Wrestling state championships will take place in Battle Creek, Michigan.

It looks like another successful year.

Sincerely,
Jeff Kelsey, coach
Romulus Wrestling Club

* * *

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The Romulus News *reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.* ❑

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Credit Union Hosts Ribbon-cutting

On Wednesday, March 7, Public Service Credit Union held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of its new headquarters, located at 7665 Merriman in Romulus.

Programs Promote Spring Cleaning

Just in time for spring cleaning, the City of Romulus has announced dates for annual programs designed to help our community look its best.

Free Dumping

To help you get rid of your spring cleaning mess without ridding yourself of your hard-earned money in the process, the City is sponsoring free dumping *for Romulus residents only* (proof of residency required) from Monday, May 14, through Saturday, May 19.

Permitted items (see below for some restrictions) may be dumped at the Department of Public Works (12600 Wayne Road, between Goddard and Eureka) during the DPW's normal business hours.

Note that each household may dump:

- no more than three "bulky" items, such as furniture or *freon-free* appliances (removal certification sticker required).
- no more than one pickup-truck-load of construction debris.
- no more than two loads per day.
- no more than 4 tires (which must be kept separate from all other debris).
- only nonhazardous materials.

For a comprehensive list of dumping rules, including items that will not be accepted, watch for flyers at City Hall or the DPW.

Citywide Yard Sale

To get rid of trash that's good enough to be someone else's treasure, take part in the annual Citywide Yard Sale, set for Thursday, May 17, through Saturday, May 20. (If two or more of the sale dates are "rained out," the event will be rescheduled for May 31 through June 3.)

To register for a free one-, two-, three-, or four-day sale permit – *and have your address included in free newspaper advertising for the event* – stop in at the Recreation Department's administrative office (11189 Shook) no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26. Residents registering after the deadline will still receive a free permit, but may not be included in any advertisements.

For info, call 734-941-8665.

Yard Waste Removal

Just a reminder that yard waste removal will begin the first week of April. For tips on the proper preparation of yard waste materials, call Waste Management (313-292-0800) or visit www.romulusgov.com. ❑

The Romulus News

P.O. Box 74038 • Romulus, MI 48174-0038
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Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

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Nite-Lite Graphics and *The Romulus News* are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

The Romulus News invites individuals and organizations to submit articles that may be of interest to its readers; however, *The Romulus News* is not responsible for the content of such articles, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. *The Romulus News* reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publication; however, since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, misspellings and grammar errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of *The Romulus News*. All letters, commentaries, and other columns must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

The Romulus News reserves the right to run special advertising rates for each area covered by its distribution without effect on normal contractual rates.

The Romulus News will furnish "personal" (nonbusiness) advertisements, free of charge, to Romulus residents on a "space available" basis.

While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, *The Romulus News* is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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The Police Blotter

Thanks to Sergeant Michael Smith for submitting the following summary of the Romulus Police Department's significant activity from March 5–March 18. (Information is presented in the following format: date, time, type of call, and general location.)

Monday, March 5

- 8:14 a.m. – Larceny (block of 29000 Airport Dr.)
- 10:13 a.m. – Harassment Complaint (block of 15000 Mountain Way)
- 12:04 p.m. – Larceny (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 12:46 p.m. – Fraud Complaint (block of 38900 Superior)
- 1:16 p.m. – Larceny (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 3:19 p.m. – Threats (block of 9030 Gabriel)
- 5:17 p.m. – Fraud Complaint (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 6:26 p.m. – Robbery Alarm (block of 27900 Eureka)
- 7:04 p.m. – Fraud Complaint (reported at RPD headquarters)

Tuesday, March 6

- 3:43 a.m. – Property Damage/ Malicious Destruction of Property (PD/MDOP) (block of 35400 Smith)
- 4:18 a.m. – Mental Incapacitation (block of 11100 Wayne)
- 11:55 a.m. – Unlawful Driving Away of an Automobile (UDAA) (block of 8450 Merriman)
- 12:42 p.m. – UDAA (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 1:03 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 35500 Wick)
- 1:13 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 5930 Colorado)
- 1:39 p.m. – Harassment Complaint (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 1:40 p.m. – UDAA (block of 30500 Flynn Dr.)
- 3:02 p.m. – Larceny (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 4:28 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 28000 Van Born)
- 5:09 p.m. – Felonious Assault (block of 6000 Dexter)
- 6:14 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 15000 I-275 N.)
- 8:49 p.m. – Fight (block of 9650 Wayne)
- 10:50 p.m. – Threats (block of 16900 Hawick Ln.)
- 11:20 p.m. – Threats (block of 15700 Colbert)

Wednesday, March 7

- 9:12 a.m. – Larceny (block of 7070 Niagara)
- 12:32 p.m. – Fraud Complaint (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 2:27 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 35500 Garner)
- 5:45 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 11500 Whitehorn)
- 7:01 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 38300 McDonald)
- 7:11 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 6770 Merriman)
- 8:32 p.m. – Mental Incapacitation (block of 16400 Ironstone)

Thursday, March 8

- 12:56 a.m. – Felonious Assault (block of 10000 Telegraph)
- 9:48 a.m. – Felonious Assault (block of 15000 Knoll Way)
- 6:12 p.m. – Assault & Battery (block of 10400 Miriam)
- 11:29 p.m. – Operating Under the Influence of Liquor (OUIL) (block of 11000 Middlebelt)

Friday, March 9

- 1:54 a.m. – Fight (block of 7090 Wayne)
- 1:18 p.m. – Fight (block of 9650 Wayne)
- 1:30 p.m. – Fight (block of 37300 Wick)
- 3:15 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 15000 Mountain Way)
- 3:29 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 29900 Goddard)
- 5:23 p.m. – Recovered UDAA (block of 9960 Wayne)
- 7:15 p.m. – Harassment Complaint (block of 7060 Birchdale)

Saturday, March 10

- 8:52 a.m. – Abandoned Vehicle (block of 35800 Cypress)
- 9:10 a.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 35900 Vinewood)
- 9:49 a.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 29000 Airport Dr.)
- 2:09 p.m. – Loud Music (block of 39000 Wyoming)
- 5:20 p.m. – Larceny (block of 34900 Ecorse)
- 6:12 p.m. – Mental Incapacitation (block of 11500 Whitehorn)
- 7:15 p.m. – Special Attention (block of 27600 Hildebrandt)
- 8:15 p.m. – Larceny (block of 9500 Middlebelt)
- 10:46 p.m. – Larceny (block of 35500 Stephanie)
- 10:57 p.m. – Fight (block of 6000 Washington)

Sunday, March 11

- 3:17 a.m. – Loud Music (block of 7050 Niagara)
- 4:02 a.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 7100 Metroplex)
- 6:36 a.m. – Abandoned Vehicle (block of 9500 Wayne)
- 1:33 p.m. – Abandoned Vehicle (block of 8200 Wahrman)
- 1:42 p.m. – Threats (block of 27600 Pennsylvania)
- 3:57 p.m. – Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Complaint (block of 35400 Ecorse)
- 4:23 p.m. – Training/School (block of 34700 Smith)
- 8:25 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 6180 Cordell)
- 9:09 p.m. – Shots Fired (block of 5910 Chamberlain)
- 9:21 p.m. – UDAA (block of 30500 Flynn Dr.)
- 10:52 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 30600 Redwood)

Monday, March 12

- 12:26 a.m. – Family Trouble (block of 32100 Newcastle)
- 6:34 a.m. – UDAA (block of 27400 Ecorse)
- 6:47 a.m. – Larceny (block of 5910 Esther)
- 4:55 p.m. – Assault & Battery (block of 6180 Edmund)
- 5:27 p.m. – Threats (block of 6960 Niagara)
- 7:09 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 9:52 p.m. – Felonious Assault (block of 6140 Columbus)
- 10:01 p.m. – Larceny (block of 30500 Flynn Dr.)
- 11:13 p.m. – Family Trouble (block of 27700 Eureka)

Tuesday, March 13

- 10:26 a.m. – Assault & Battery (block of 15000 Broadway)
- 10:56 a.m. – Larceny (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 11:14 a.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 5990 Swan Lake Dr.)
- 4:06 p.m. – Haz-Mat Incident (block of 29200 River Oak)
- 4:37 p.m. – ORV Complaint (block of 17000 Brandt)
- 4:45 p.m. – Fight (block of 28700 Van Born)
- 5:20 p.m. – Larceny (block of 9090 Wickham)
- 5:33 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 16800 Heather Blvd.)
- 6:28 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 8270 Wickham)
- 7:08 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 6050 Columbus)

continued on page 4

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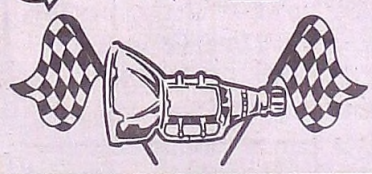

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The Police Blotter

continued from page 3

- 9:24 p.m. – Juvenile Complaint/ Runaway (JC/R) (block of 8230 Merriman)

Wednesday, March 14

- 12:23 a.m. – Larceny (block of 15500 Meadow)
- 12:44 a.m. – Assault & Battery (block of 7070 Niagara)
- 7:49 a.m. – Dumping/Littering (block of 35400 Herman)
- 11:05 a.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 36500 Bibbins)
- 12:18 p.m. – Mental Incapacitation (block of 5870 Metro)
- 12:45 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 15700 Taft)
- 2:37 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 39000 Superior)
- 3:04 p.m. – Harassment Complaint (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 3:13 p.m. – Fight (block of 15000 Knoll Way)
- 4:14 p.m. – Family Trouble (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 4:38 p.m. – Larceny (block of 34600 McBride)
- 6:57 p.m. – Harassment Complaint (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 7:51 p.m. – JC/R (block of 39300 Ecorse)
- 9:36 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 9340 Barry)

Thursday, March 15

- 2:03 a.m. – Harassment Complaint (block of 39300 Ecorse)
- 1:31 p.m. – Larceny (block of 11100 Wayne)
- 2:51 p.m. – Fight (block of 6000 Dexter)
- 4:55 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 5910 Esther)
- 7:21 p.m. – ORV Complaint (block of 16000 Taft)
- 7:23 p.m. – Fraud Complaint (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 9:12 p.m. – Man with a Weapon (block of 15000 Brookway)

Friday, March 16

- 2:12 a.m. – Disturbance (block of 8800 Wickham)
- 7:03 a.m. – UDAA (block of 28900 Beverly)
- 8:05 a.m. – Recovered UDAA (block of 29400 Smith)
- 9:37 a.m. – Family Trouble (block of 6970 Niagara)
- 11:17 a.m. – UDAA (block of 27400 Ecorse)
- 11:30 a.m. – Disturbance (block of 36900 Wick)
- 1:40 p.m. – Assault & Battery (block of 37300 Wick)
- 4:18 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 39000 Superior)
- 5:25 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 9600 Middlebelt)
- 6:36 p.m. – Death Investigation (block of 35800 Beverly)
- 10:27 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 36500 Bibbins)
- 10:59 p.m. – Threats (block of 35100 Lynn)
- 11:13 p.m. – Disturbance (block of 8600 Merriman)

Saturday, March 17

- 5:47 a.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 30800 Smith)
- 10:06 a.m. – Family Trouble (reported at RPD headquarters)
- 11:15 a.m. – Family Trouble (block of 15000 Brandt)
- 2:04 p.m. – Recovered UDAA (block of 27400 Ecorse)
- 3:42 p.m. – Threats (block of 39100 Chase)
- 8:52 p.m. – Loud Music (block of 29000 Whitby Dr.)

Sunday, March 18

- 12:06 a.m. – JC/R (block of 38600 Cherokee)
- 12:27 a.m. – Shots Fired (block of 9520 Biddle)
- 7:22 a.m. – Family Trouble (block of 10300 Ozga)
- 12:21 p.m. – Larceny (block of 27400 Ecorse)
- 7:26 p.m. – PD/MDOP (block of 6080 Second)
- 8:32 p.m. – Missing Person (block of 13100 Huron River Dr.)
- 10:46 p.m. – Loud Music (block of 6730 Merriman)
- 11:49 p.m. – Breaking & Entering (block of 30700 Van Born) ❑

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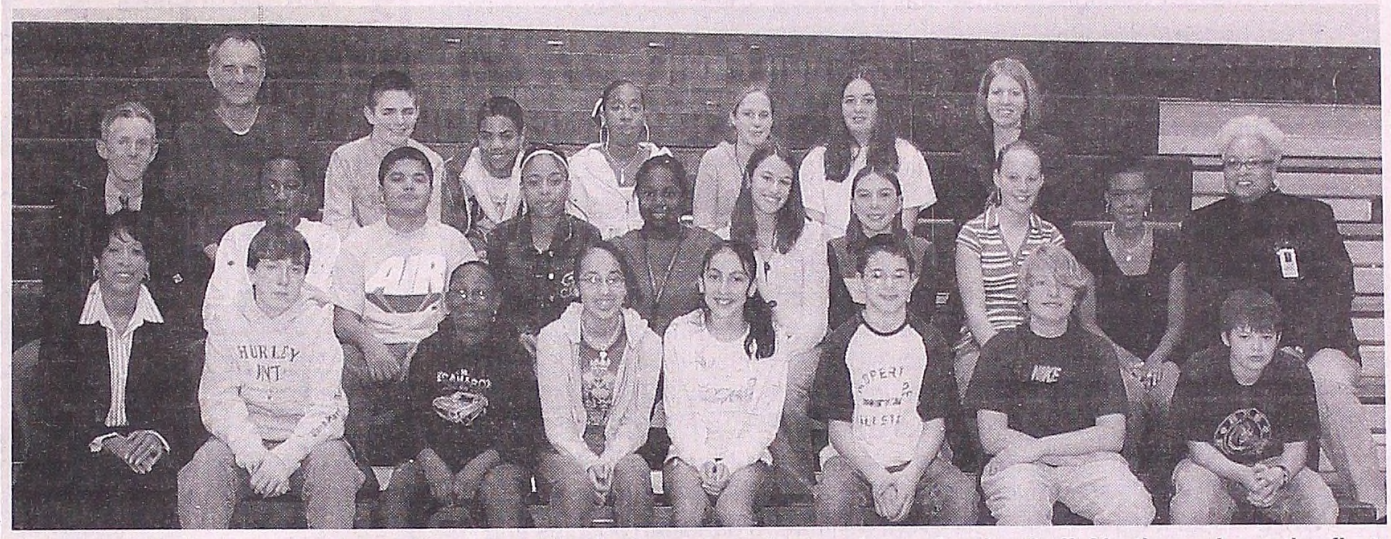
Making the Grades



District officials congratulated Romulus Middle School students who maintained all A's throughout the first semester of the 2006–2007 school year. Pictured are: (from left) front – Board of Education trustee Cheryle Buckley, Bryan Moore, Derrian Cooley, Symone Martin, Desiree Kassa, Thomas VanAssche, Frederick McAnally, and Travis Bergman; middle – District superintendent Carl J. Weiss, Eddie Hitchings, Steven Pratt, Nicole Wilson, Michelle Mayfield, Chantel Roberts, Savannah Moffat, Dayna Hearod, Joshlyn Booth, and RMS principal Phyllis Adkins; back – Board vice-president Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Nathan Wilkerson, Jonathan Proctor, Briana Glenn, Sarah Orr, Jennifer Sylvester, and RMS assistant principal Rhonda Henry.

More than a third of the seventh-graders at RMS made the honor roll during the first semester.

Also recognized for making the first-semester honor roll were the RMS eighth-graders pictured above.

Community Calendar

- **Quilt Exhibit** – "Patches and Patterns: A Celebration of Quilts" – an exhibition featuring more than 120 antique and contemporary quilts – will continue at the Belleville Area Museum (405 Main Street) from 12 to 4 p.m. each Tuesday through Saturday until March 31. Admission is $1
- **Preschoolers Reading Fair** – On Saturday, March 24, the fourth annual Romulus Preschoolers Reading Fair will be held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, south of Goddard, next to City Hall) from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will include stories read to preschoolers by community figures as well as souvenirs from Romulus firefighters, parenting videos, and refreshments. Applying for a library card (or showing one) will give families the chance to win raffle prizes that include weekend hotel getaways and educational toys. Everything is free and open to all family members. For more information about this event – which is sponsored by the Schools' Early Childhood Initiative with support from the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency's Great Parents, Great Start! – call Romulus Community Schools Community Education at 734-532-1953.
- **Bowling Tournament Benefits Animal Shelter** – A "9-pin No-tap Bowling Tournament" to raise money for the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter will be held at Romulus Lanes (37452 Huron River Drive) on Friday, April 27, beginning at 7 p.m. The event will feature handicap doubles and singles events, as well as prizes, a 50/50 raffle, and snacks. Cost is $25 per person. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. For more information, call Romulus Lanes (734-941-6200), Councilman Bill Wadsworth (941-0616), Joe Ozog (941-3466), or Frank Ayers (734-729-7467).
- **"Taking Control of Your MS"** – The Multiple Sclerosis Association of America will host "Taking Control of Your MS" at the Hilton Garden Inn (31800 Smith Road) on Saturday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The free program, which will also include a complimentary breakfast and lunch, will feature speakers Dr. James Voci (neurologist, St. John Medical Center), Dr. Tiziano Morovino (physical therapist), and Nancy Bowers, MSW, LSW. To RSVP (no later than March 26), call 800-532-7667, ext. 121.
- **"Tumble Bunnies" Gymnastics** – Boys and girls ages 2–12 will try out a variety of equipment (trampolines, bars, beams, wedge mats, etc.) in the Romulus Recreation Department's "Tumble Bunnies" gymnastic classes, which will emphasize acquiring new skills. Classes will meet at the Recreation Center (located at 11189 Shook) on Tuesdays from March 27 through May 29. Cost is $85 for the 10-week session. Preregister by Friday, March 23. For more information, call 734-941-8665.
- **Saturday Craft Classes** – Ages 3–adult (under 8 must be accompanied by an adult) can take part in these one-day classes, to be taught at the Romulus Recreation Center on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: ***Spring Theme #1*** (April 28) and ***Spring Theme #2*** (May 19). Cost is $5 (cash only) per class, to be paid upon arrival. No preregistration. Call 734-941-8665 for info.
- **Softball Is Back!** – The Romulus Recreation Department has joined forces with the cities of Wayne and Westland to form the Western Wayne Independent Softball Association. Many leagues are forming, with games dispersed among all three cities. Divisions will include Men's D, Men's E, Men's Over 40, Women's, and Co-ed. Call 734-941-8665 for information.
- **Free Tax Service for Seniors, Others** – From 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday through April 11, the Romulus Senior Center will be offering free tax-preparation services – *by appointment only* – to Romulus senior citizens (age 60 and older) as well as disabled and low-income individuals. A list of the various materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration. To make an appointment, please stop in at the Center, located at 36525 Bibbins, or call 734-955-4120.
- **"Second Monday" Book Club** – Meetings of the Romulus Public Library's Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, south of Goddard) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Advance registration is not required; just read the suggested book, then drop in. Books planned for upcoming discussions include ***Walking in Circles Before Lying Down*** by Merrill Markoe (April 9), ***Wild Rose*** by Ann Blackman (May 14), and ***A Suitable Vengeance*** by Elizabeth George (June 11). For more information, call 734-942-7589.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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Hurst Is WCRESA Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2007

Kathy Hurst

Kathy Hurst, a second-grade teacher at Wick School in Romulus, has been selected as the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency "Elementary Teacher of the Year" for 2007, according to Dr. Marlene Davis, WC-RESA superintendent. Hurst will be recognized at the annual WC-RESA Awards Night in May.

Carl J. Weiss, superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, was impressed with Hurst's award.

"There are 34 school districts in Wayne County, and each has many outstanding teachers," said Weiss. "To have yet another of our teachers receive this award is a great honor."

Hurst is the third Romulus Community Schools teacher to receive WC-RESA's Elementary Teacher of the Year award, joining 2006 winner Marilyn Wood, a kindergarten teacher at Wick, and 2005 winner Gerilynn Kline, a learning specialist at Barth School. WC-RESA officials have indicated that Romulus is the first school district to have three consecutive winners in the history of the awards program.

Barth principal Diane Golka, who nominated Hurst, said, "Kathy is very deserving of this award. She has consistently provided strong instructional leadership to her students, Wick teachers, and District colleagues. Her additional work before and after school has helped Wick Elementary students earn an 'A' on Michigan's Education YES! program, and also win a State of Michigan 'Blue Ribbon' award this year."

Golka continued, "Kathy sets high standards and expectations for her students, and believes that each child will succeed. Her diligent work has resulted in her students recording the District's highest MEAP scores in reading, math, and writing for the past two years.

"She effectively uses mastery learning with her grade-level reading and math centers, cooperative learning to help her students learn team-building skills, and differentiated instruction to best meet the educational needs of each individual student."

One parent who is new to the District said, "I observed her commitment to the children in her room, her calm and caring spirit, her passion for helping others, and her true talent for bringing out the best in a student. My decision was made right then, and I vigorously requested that my daughter be placed in her class for the following year."

Before becoming a teacher at Wick, Hurst worked as the District's service-learning coordinator. Under her leadership, Romulus High School became one of the first schools in the nation to earn the prestigious Presidential Service Learning Award. She has co-authored two service-learning manuals, been featured in various publications, and made presentations at many local and statewide conferences on philanthropy.

"Each year," said district spokesperson Dick Kruse, "Kathy devises special challenges for students, having them pick a community-service project, learn more about the need they have identified, write a letter to their families about their project, and then prepare a PowerPoint presentation about the topic – truly amazing for second-graders. Her students have selected projects such as collecting food for the Helping Hand of Romulus, collecting outerwear items for a school mitten tree, writing letters to residents about breast cancer, and trick-or-treating for UNICEF."

District curriculum director Tom Dolan noted, "Kathy has brought statewide and national recognition to the Romulus school district and herself through her exemplary efforts in the field of philanthropy. She has also extended her excellence into the classroom, and developed many innovative lessons that help her students maximize their learning experiences.

"The entire Romulus educational community congratulates Kathy on this memorable achievement." ❑

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RESA Grant Promotes Student Success at Cory Elementary

Consultant Bob Sorenson (back, center) led a numeracy workshop for Cory Elementary students, who used an abacus to study concepts such as multiplication and division. Participants included: (from left) front – Terrell Huguley, Stefan Reynolds, Chelsi Hillard, Mariah Nelson, and Janet Tavorn; back – principal Dorothy West, first-grade teachers Kathleen Briggs and Monica Harris, third-grade teacher Debbie Roberts, kindergarten teacher Kara Taylor, and second-grade teacher Ronda Askew.

Cory Elementary principal Dorothy West was very pleased when Romulus Community Schools curriculum director Tom Dolan informed her that Cory's 2006 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores were the highest ever achieved by the school.

"We try very hard to help our students become successful learners, and this is evidence that we are succeeding," said West.

Aiding Cory's staff in promoting student success is a Wayne County RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) grant that funds noted educator Bob Sorenson's Preventing Early Learning Failure program. PELF helps promote student academic achievement in a variety of ways, according to district spokesperson Dick Kruse, and also promotes the development of a positive school climate and positive relationships between students and adults.

For example, said Kruse, Sorenson visits Cory on a monthly basis to conduct programs on topics such as staff/student relationships, developing student motor skills, building a positive home/school environment, and promoting language and numeracy skills. His most recent program on numeracy had students using an abacus to further their comprehension of concepts like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Sorenson said, "Many times, students can learn a lot about math concepts by visualizing the beads on the abacus. This really helps them understand what they are figuring out on their math study sheets."

Principal West noted, "Our initial session last year was on school climate and making students feel welcome and valued. We were all impressed with Mr. Sorenson's approach, which encourages adults to take their time and talk to students about whatever the issue of concern is at that moment. He stressed that something as simple as addressing the student by name and then addressing the problem observed in a careful manner can make a big difference in building student character and respect."

The RESA grant provides for Sorenson's services and for teacher release time to attend his monthly workshops.

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REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 12, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, February 12, 2007, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Celeste Roscoe.

Roll call showed members Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Niema White, Betty Lenossi, Cheryle Buckley, and Thomas Kuderik present. Member April Frayer was absent (excused). Administrators present were: Carl J. Weiss, Superintendent; Sherri Papazoglou, Director of Business and Operations; Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources; and Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Roscoe.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

02/07/3 Moved by Buckley, supported by Kuderik, to approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

02/07/4 Moved by White, supported by Mientkiewicz, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2007 and Study Sessions of January 30, 2007, and February 6, 2007, as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

FYI – PARAPROFESSIONAL RECALL: Samuel Bonam, Special Education Student Aide, Barth Elementary School, Effective February 2, 2007.

Bills for Payment

02/07/5 Moved by Lenossi, supported by White, to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Ms. Sherri Papazoglou, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

High School Curriculum Changes

Mr. Dan Hurst, Ms. Michelle Hill, Ms. Lisa Willerik, and Mr. Steve Grunick appeared before the Board of Education to talk about high school curriculum changes – i.e., added classes (world history and geography), the one-semester health course, and entrepreneurship/small business/managing money.

Presentation – Marjie McAnally – Romulus Elementary

Ms. Marjie McAnally gave the Board of Education an overview of programs at Romulus Elementary School for the 2006–2007 school year.

MEAP – Tom Dolan

Mr. Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum; Ms. Patricia Adams; and Ms. Dorothy West gave an overview of Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) results to the Board of Education.

Communication and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications and expressions from the public.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Carl J. Weiss, Superintendent, shared the following Items of Interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) The Merriman Star newsletter; 2) Romulus Middle School newsletter; 3) Connect Michigan Alliance communication; 4) Barth Elementary School newsletter; 5) NCA communication; 6) Wick Elementary School communication; 7) The Mind & The Genius Within flyer; 8) Halecreek Elementary School newsletter; 9) Romulus High School parent newsletter; 10 Cory Elementary School newsletter; and 11) Romulus Elementary School newsletter.

QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Celeste Roscoe stated that the Soul Food Dinner would be held at Romulus Middle School on February 21, 2007, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Cheryle Buckley stated that the Romulus High School Robotics Team is having a raffle (tickets are $10 each), and that the drawing will be on April 5, 2007.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

02/07/6 Moved by White, supported by Buckley, to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of performing a Superintendent Evaluation. Roll call vote – Ayes: Buckley, Kuderik, Lenossi, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, and White. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

02/07/7 Moved by Mientkiewicz, supported by Kuderik, to reconvene in Regular Session. Roll call vote – Ayes: Buckley, Kuderik, Lenossi, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, and White. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:45 p.m.

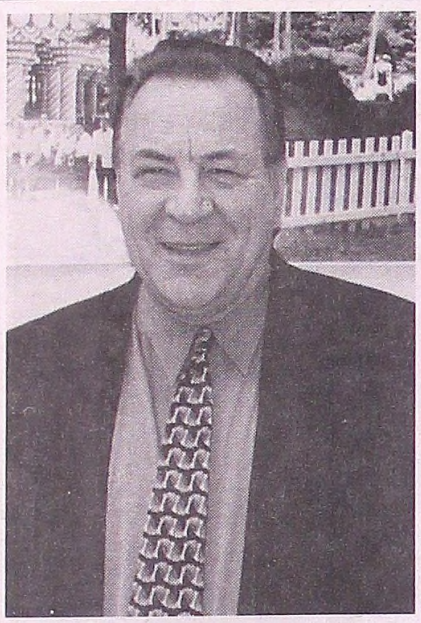
ADJOURNMENT:

02/07/8 Moved by White, supported by Lenossi, to adjourn. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Niema White, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

Kruse Celebrates 41-year Career in Romulus Schools



After 41 years as a teacher and PR director, Dick Kruse is one of the District's most familiar faces.

Kruse was a featured soloist with the University of Michigan's Symphonic Band during its historic 15-week/ 25,000-mile tour of the Soviet Union and the Middle East in 1961. Here, he is shown performing in Yerevan, capital of Armenia. *For more photos, please see page 10.*

Romulus Community Schools public relations director Dick Kruse is celebrating a very rewarding career that has spanned more than four decades. Kruse – who served as Music Department chairman and junior-high/middle-school band director during his first 33 years with the District – has accepted a position with Marshall Music, and will be starting band programs throughout Michigan.

Kruse told "the little paper" that he has been truly blessed to have the opportunity to teach and work in the Romulus school district for the past 41 years.

""There are a lot of wonderful people in Romulus, and I was lucky enough to have 4,000 of them in my bands," he stated. "I still have the opportunity to see them, their parents, and their children as PR director."

When asked to name some of the biggest highlights of his career, Kruse said, "Seeing my students improve and getting a total of 24 first-division ratings at MSBOA state band festivals was very rewarding, as was watching the construction and completion of Romulus Elementary School, the swimming complex at the High School, and the football field at the Middle School. In 1999, [then-superintendent] Dr. William Bedell asked me to lead the promotion of the $34-million bond program that funded these construction projects, and it was passed by the District's voters on our first try."

As PR director, Kruse has been unflagging in his support and promotion of Romulus students and the community overall. During each of his eight years as the District's chief spokesperson, he attended 90–100 evening events at various schools, provided weekly press releases to *The Romulus News* and *The Romulus Roman*, and served as the editor of *Your Schools in Perspective* (a District newspaper) and co-editor of *The Link* (a quarterly newspaper published jointly with the City of Romulus). He was also the head of the Public Relations Task Force for the Middle Cities Education Association, a consortium of 34 urban school districts.

Yet another accomplishment of which Kruse is particularly proud is his work with State Senator Ray Basham to pass a law allowing employees of Michigan school districts to enroll their own children in the district where they work, regardless of their residency status.

"The Romulus Community Schools received over $60,000 in State aid this year because of that law," he noted.

As a teacher at Romulus Junior High School and, later, Romulus Middle School, Kruse was no less dedicated. Over a 20-year period, his bands earned more than twice as many first-division ratings at State band festivals as those of his closest competitors.

"My symphonic band received 20 first-divisions in 21 attempts," he proudly stated.

Other noteworthy moments from Kruse's career included:

- taking his band on 13 different tours to Canada, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Florida, and Washington, DC, where his Tour Band represented the State of Michigan on Michigan Day in 1987.
- his symphonic band's selection to perform at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's 50th anniversary celebration at Hill Auditorium in 1984.
- his purchase, in 1988, of a $3,600 billboard that proclaimed "Romulus: Home of 1st Division Bands." The billboard, which was erected on I-94, garnered statewide and national recognition for Romulus.
- getting his students' names in the Congressional Record with the help of then-Congressman William Ford.

Kruse said that he took very seriously the trust that the community placed in him to get results with both the band and public relations programs.

"Our success required a total team effort from the Board of Education, Central Office administrators, building principals, teachers, parents, and students," he explained.

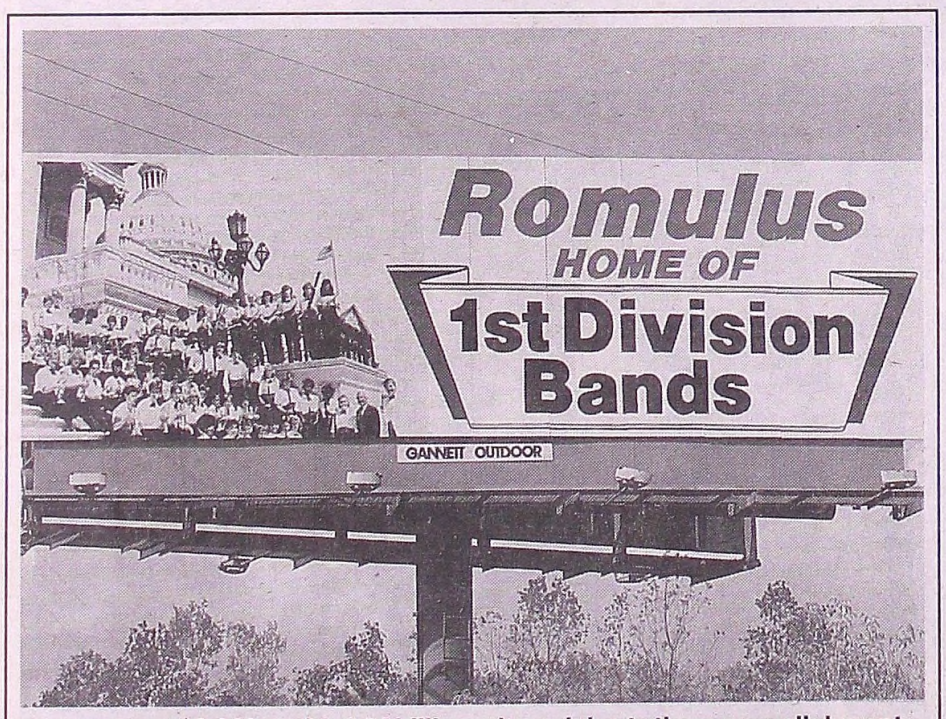
In fact, Kruse was so focused on his mission that he often went the proverbial extra mile, doing things like stopping by students' houses during the summer to give them private lessons, or visiting area Realtors, developers, and apartment complexes to distribute newspapers and other promotional materials to help them "sell" Romulus to prospective residents and businesses.

But Kruse is perhaps most proud of the fact that he often made a positive difference in the lives of his students, many of whom have gone on to enjoy successful college educations and outstanding careers.

"I really look forward to seeing them," he said. "They often tell me how the self-confidence that they gained playing in our bands has helped them achieve things they didn't think they could do."

During his college days at the University of Michigan, Kruse was first-chair clarinetist with the UM Symphonic Band for four years, and a featured soloist with the band during its historic 15-week/25,000-mile tour of the Soviet Union and the Middle East in 1961. His soloist appearances included performances in Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

His service to the community led to his selection as "Romulus Teacher of the Year" in 1983 and as the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce "Person of the Year" in 1991. ❑



Kruse spent $3,600 on this I-94 billboard to celebrate the accomplishments of his band program, which earned 13 straight first-division ratings at MSBOA state festivals. *The Detroit News* did a feature article about it, and the Associated Press distributed it around the United States.

Kruse Celebrates 41-year Career with Romulus Community Schools

continued from page 9

The outstanding reputation achieved by Kruse's band program led to invitations to perform at a number of exciting venues, including Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida.

Kruse's summer beginners' classes gave students entering fourth grade a jump start on the coming school year, and were one of many factors that contributed to his band program's excellence.

Woody Woodpecker was on hand to help Kruse conduct his tour band during its performance at Mel's Drive-In at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida.

Kruse (right) took his 1970 Romulus Junior High School tour band to West Point, New York City, Niagara Falls, and his hometown of Colonie, New York.

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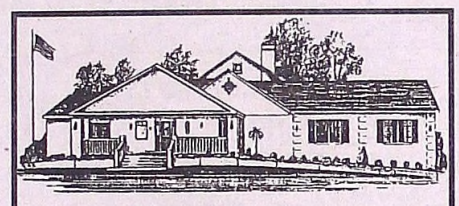
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Obituary

Gloria J. "Mo" Hanson

Gloria J. "Mo" Hanson of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Friday, March 9, 2007, at the age of 59.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on Tuesday, April 29, 1947.

Mo (as she was affectionately known by her family members and friends) loved being around people, and was very generous – sometimes almost to a fault. An individual who strongly believed in helping others, she was especially proud of her affiliation with Alcoholics Anonymous, and sponsored six other women during their recovery.

Mo loved all animals, especially cats, and was always taking care of strays. She also loved music, the color purple, and collecting afghans and clocks.

Surviving Mo are her mother, Bernice E. (Seppala) Player (Romulus); her son, Michael D. Hanson (Romulus); her brother, Joseph R. (Cynthia) Player (Mesa, AZ); and two sisters, Joanne Player (Canton, MI) and Suzie (James) Player-Ellis (Commerce Township, MI).

Among those who predeceased her was her father, Joseph Player, who passed away on March 20, 1992.

A funeral service was held at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Chaplain Linda Moon (St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ypsilanti, MI) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial tributes to the American Lung Association or the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue (P.O. Box 854, Belleville, MI 48112) would be greatly appreciated by the family. ❑

Jennifer, Jessica Dick Win Scholarships

Jessica Dick

Identical twins Jennifer and Jessica Dick have one more similarity to add to their list: both were recently awarded scholarships for their excellent performance in the classroom and on the athletic fields.

The Romulus High School seniors, both of whom will enter the honors program at Grand Valley State University this fall, received scholar-athlete awards from the Detroit Pistons (Jennifer) and Warner Bros. Pictures and Rivals.com (Jessica).

Jennifer and Jessica are the daughters of Ron and Debbie Dick (Romulus) and sisters of Sean and Michele. ❑

Jennifer Dick (pictured with Detroit Pistons forward Jason Maxiell) received her scholar-athlete award during a halftime presentation at the Pistons' February 21 game against the Orlando Magic.

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